

FLAMES STILL CARRYING ON THE WORK OF DESTRUCTION AND THE MAGNIFICENT PALACES OF THE WEALTHY ARE BEING DEVoured IN THE STRICKEN CITY

verify the many reports of shooting that are coming to the press representatives. Concerted action of any kind is out of the question and almost every official is acting on his own responsibility, it being a physical impossibility to communicate with superior authorities.

Yesterday some sort of systematic communication could be had by means of automobiles, but to-day every street is piled high with ruins, and to add to this trouble there is constant danger from falling walls.

Explosions Sway Walls.

On miles of streets the front walls of ruined buildings still stand, swaying with the concussions of distant dynamite explosions and the rising winds. Frequently a crash of stones and brick, followed by a cloud of dust, gives warning to pedestrians of the unsafety of travel.

Many of the reports of death and disaster are coming to the temporary headquarters of the authorities, but these reports are received guardedly, allowance being made for the likelihood of exaggeration due to the confusion that prevails in the stricken city.

PALACES OF RICH IN GRIP OF FLAMES.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 19.—The terrific fire, after feeding for twenty-four hours on warehouses, business structures and hovels, switched with a change of the wind and attacked Nob Hill to-day. On Nob Hill are the residences of most of the California millionaires, magnificent structures, filled with priceless paintings and furnishings. Nothing short of a miracle will save them.

The St. Francis Hotel, facing Union square, which escaped serious damage in the earthquake, has at last succumbed to the flames, after catching fire a dozen times. The Merchants' Exchange has been destroyed, and the James Flood Building, at Market and Powell streets, toppled and fell this afternoon. A portion of Mark Hopkins Institute of Arts is in ruins.

The situation is more terrible, more disheartening to-day than it was yesterday. The exhausted fire fighters are dropping in their tracks, and the leaders of the movement to keep order and save property and lives are almost in despair.

It is probably safe to say that upward of 1,000 people are dead and many thousands are injured. Gen. Funston, in command of the military, estimates that 200,000 persons—one-half of the population of the city—are homeless. A few more hours of the fire and half the population will be without shelter.

The property loss now will run over \$200,000,000, and imagination palls at the probable total.

Famous Hotel Is Doomed.

The great Fairmount Hotel, on California street, between Mason and Powell streets, erected by Mrs. Hermann Oelrichs, at a cost of \$2,000,000, is directly in the path of the advancing flames. The Huntington, Crocker and other mansions, comparatively flimsy structures despite their great cost, are as paper in the fierce heat of the wall of flame.

From present indications an area of two-thirds of the land included in the city limits of San Francisco will be swept by the fire before it burns itself out. Already the ruins extend from the China Basin on the Bay, almost two miles southeast of the City Hall to North Beach, two miles north of the business centre. A stretch four miles long and ranging from one to two miles in width has been bitten out of the heart of the city.

Water Supply Has Given Out.

The Western Union and Southern Pacific buildings have been totally destroyed. The fire is burning rapidly in a diagonal line up the hill, commencing at McAllister and ending at Battery street, and on Main street as far as Sixteenth street.

The water supply has given out, the wind is rising and the military authorities have just forbidden any one to enter the city.

They have all they can handle without attempting any more.

The situation has not improved and already there is great suffering for food and water.

Thousands of people line up in the parks awaiting soldiers to distribute water.

Dozen Fires Raging.

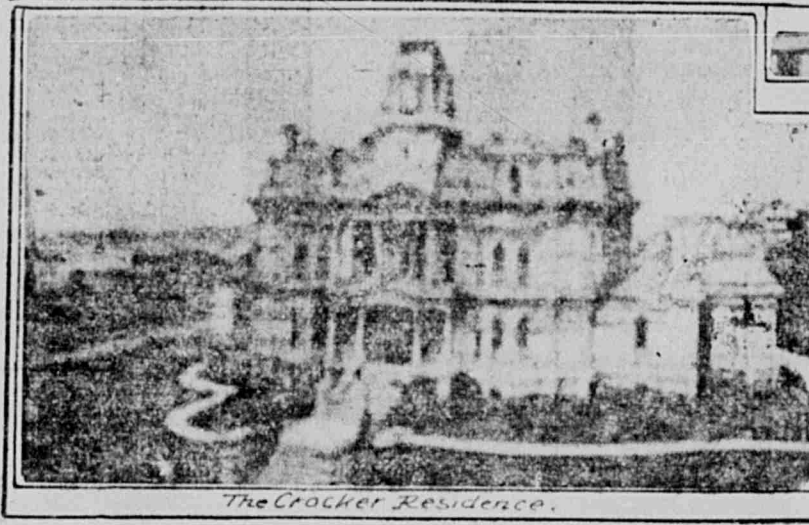
This is the big fire. A dozen other conflagrations, each of which would be considered disastrous in magnitude under ordinary circumstances, are raging in widely separated parts of the city. Thus far the only part remaining whole is the extreme southern and southeastern section.

If the wind remains in the present quarter for any length of time the fire will sweep out to the north-west until it finds nothing further to

PALACES DOOMED BY DEVOURING FLAMES IN SAN FRANCISCO



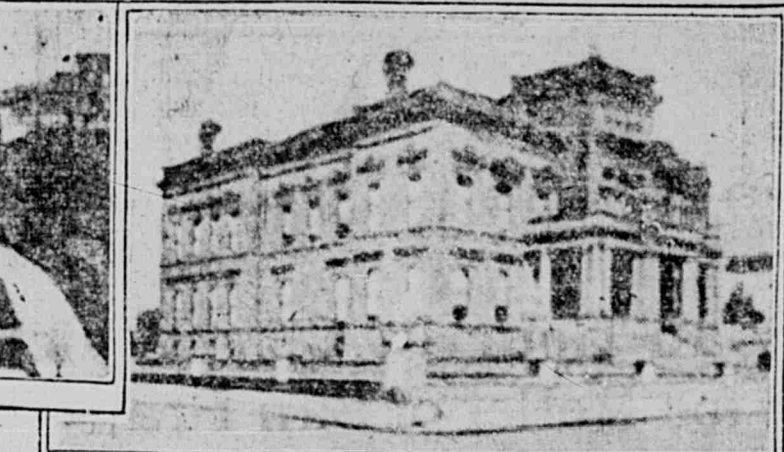
The Stanford Residence



The Crocker Residence



Mark Hopkins Institute of Art



The Flood Residence



Palace Hotel

feed upon at the borders of the Presidio reservation.

An independent fire some two miles from the main blaze threatens the whole Western addition. This is the section of the city on the ocean side surrounding Golden Gate Park. It is settled by people of moderate means and probably 95 per cent. of the houses are built of wood. The situation of the people in this section is desperate. In trying to escape with their goods to the eastward they encounter the destruction downtown. To the westward are the cliffs.

In addition to the danger from fire famine threatens this afflicted city. There has been no business done for two days. The reserve supply of food for the city has been destroyed. There is not enough water to enable the firemen to make a show, to say nothing of the amount required for drinking and cooking purposes. This is a feature of the situation that is causing the authorities the greatest anxiety.

GREATEST AMERICAN CALAMITY.

Since the great Chicago fire there has been no calamity in this country approaching this that has visited San Francisco. Last night was one of unspeakable horror and misery. This city gets more than her share of the rift raff of the world.

Many of the wickedest men, unhung, see an opportunity here to revel in their criminal instincts and harsh measures have been adopted to prevent them. Soldiers and policemen have been ordered to shoot first and then ask questions. No one will ever know just what happened in San Francisco last night.

The United States Mint, at Fifth and Mission streets, containing \$30,000,000 in gold and silver bullion and coin, is safe. It escaped serious damage in the earthquake, and while every building around it was destroyed by fire it passed through the ordeal with little damage.

Supt. Leach wired Washington to-day that his precious charge is probably out of danger unless there should be another earthquake. With a staff of his men he fought the advancing fire for hours. Some of the windows on the third floor were burned off and the heavy stone cornice on the Mint avenue side melted like butter in the terrific heat.

A squad of United States soldiers under command of Lieut. G. R. Armstrong is guarding the Mint. Soldier guards are being placed around the sites of banks that were wrecked by the earthquake and fire.

CLIFF HOUSE CRUMBED AWAY.

Early this morning the Cliff House, one of the handsomest hotel structures in the West, crumbled like powder and dropped into the sea.

There are all sorts of reports as to the loss of life in the collapse of this hotel. It is said that scores of persons who had taken refuge in the Cliff House have been drowned or crushed to death.

The Cliff House, which slid into the sea, stood on a rocky bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean. It was a favorite resort for thousands on bright days, both winter and summer. It was a pastime of visitors to sit on the west veranda and watch the hundreds of seals which congregate on large rocks about two hundred yards from the mainland. In stormy weather the waves frequently swept over the roof of the building.

HORRORS OF THE DEVASTATION.

A story of the almost incredible horrors was brought to the central police station by a man named Hussey. He told how he found in a burning building a man pinned in the wreck and already scorched by the flames; how this man begged of a policeman who stood by for release from his misery and how the policeman fired and missed.

Then Hussey took a knife and severed an artery in the wrist of the sufferer, who bled to death. Hussey talked rationally, but the police locked him up until they can investigate.

Unconfirmed news from the wreck of the Valencia Hotel says that the ground fairly sucked it in. The basement was full of water, so that when the rescue corps got through the debris they found the bodies floating about, apparently as many drowned as crushed. They tell to-day of people thrown from windows and killed on the pavements below by the first great shake, of people crushed in the streets by the debris which fell from the upper stories of buildings. The people are so sickened by horror to-day that they are willing to believe anything.

As last night wore on the wind changed and the fire along the waterfront burned itself out and ran on further down south of Market street. This gave a comparatively clear passage to the ferry building, and the troops permitted genuine refugees to pass to the Southern Pacific ferries, where they were loaded down with people, many of them still half dressed. At nightfall the troops cut off this privilege, probably for fear of rioting and disorder.

From the Oakland shore the whole downtown district of the city appears to be burning, and the fire and smoke hide the hill district. The refugees coming over to-day report that the parks are filled with people sleeping out of doors under guard of the troops.

FIRE RAVAGES THROUGH CITY.

Early to-day the Merchants' Exchange Building, fourteen stories high, one of the handsomest and most substantial edifices in the city, was in flames, as was also the Crocker-Woolworth Bank Building. The latter structure is twelve stories high, of terra cotta and granite. It stood directly opposite the Palace Hotel. The immense D. O. Mills Building is surrounded by fire, and will probably burn.

Many of the finest buildings in the city were levelled by the terrific charges of dynamite in the ineffectual effort to stay the fire. In this work

many heroic soldiers, policemen and firemen were maimed or killed.

At the extemporized morgue in the Hall of Justice fifty bodies lay. The flames rapidly approached this building, and the work of removing the bodies to Jackson Square, opposite, began. While the soldiers and police were carrying the dead to what appeared safe places a shower of bricks from a building dynamited to check the flames injured many and sent soldiers hurrying to hospitals.

The work of removing the bodies stopped and the remainder of the dead were left to possible cremation in the morgue.

SHOOT GHOULS ON SIGHT.

From the "Barbaric coast" the hoard of vicious and criminal that infest that quarter poured forth and started early in the evening to loot stores and rob the dead. Fearing such a result, Mayor Schmitz and Police Chief Dinan issued orders for the soldiers to kill all who engaged in such work. Before the eyes of a reporter three thieves were shot in the back and mortally wounded in the burning commercial district.

It was this as much as anything which determined him, when Gen. Funston came over on the double quick with the whole garrison of the Presidio, to put the city under martial law. Orders were issued to the troops to shoot any one caught in the act of looting, and the same orders were issued to the First Regiment, National Guard of California, when they were mustered and called out.

The earthquake has worked havoc in Chinatown. Chinese theatres and loss houses are in ruins, and rookery after rookery has collapsed, covering alive hundreds of Chinese. Panic reigns among the thousands of Chinese.

The Japanese quarter has been burned, and the people fled in terror, packing on their backs what household effects they could tie together. Thousands of men, women and children from the Latin quarter marched toward the hills or to the water front, frantic to get away from the city.

MILLION IN A NIGHTHAWK CAB.

Cabmen, drivers of express wagons and trucks, hired at enormous prices, are carting away from the lower city the valuables of the hotels which saw their doom in the fires. Even the banks have taken out their bullion and securities and, under guard of half-dressed clerks, have sent them to the hills.

One old nighthawk cab, driven by a cabman white with terror, carried more than a million dollars in currency and securities. Men, pulling corpses or injured people from fallen buildings, stopped to curse these processions as they passed. Time and again a line of wagons and cabs would run against an impassable barrier of debris where some building had fallen into the street and would pile up until the guards cleared a way through the streets.

It was reported at the temporary police headquarters, which was established in the basement of the Hall of Justice by Chief of Police Dinan, that in a terrific explosion which occurred at Seventh and Jessie streets Capt. Henry Gleason, of the Golden Gate Police Station, and Lieut. Pullis, in charge of the Twenty-seventh Coast Artillery, U. S. A., were seriously injured.

Lieut. Pullis was taken to the military hospital at the Presidio. He has a fractured skull and several broken bones and internal injuries. He had placed a heavy charge of dynamite in a building on Sixth street. The fuse was imperfect and did not ignite the charge as soon as was expected. Pullis went to the building to relight the fuse and the charge exploded while he was there.

The injured officer is a graduate of the artillery school at Fortress Monroe, Va. He is thirty years of age, single, and a native of Chicago.

Both were taken to the Mechanics' Pavilion, which has been given over to hospital and morgue purposes. The explosion was caused by the setting off of a blast of black powder contrary to the orders of Mayor Schmitz.

Both men were buried under a falling brick wall and were rescued by the members of the Fire Department.

NO CHANCE TO SAVE ANY PART OF THE CITY.

OAKLAND, Cal., April 19.—A correspondent of the Oakland Tribune, writing from San Francisco at 10 o'clock A. M., says:

"At this writing there seems to be practically no hope of saving any of the city of San Francisco. Those who were most sanguine of the ultimate success of the firemen in controlling the flames have now given up hope and are fleeing from the flames in despair.

"Many people are being burned alive, imprisoned in the doomed buildings, where the rescuers could not reach them.

"The last big structure to burst into flames was Grace Church at the corner of California and Stockton streets.

"The entire district from Channel to Broadway, and from the water front to Octavia and Golden Gate avenue was a mass of flames.

"The St. Francis Hotel, which hitherto escaped the breath of the great furnace, was one of the last buildings to take fire.

"The flames seem entirely beyond control.

"The fire fighters have destroyed block after block of residences with dynamite in the hope of hemming in the flames, but after each such effort the blaze would leap across a seemingly impassable gulf."

SCORES OF TOWNS ARE BLOTTED OUT.

(Continued from First Page.)

business portion tumbled into ruins. The main street is piled many feet deep with the fallen buildings. Not one business building is left intact.

This destruction includes all of the county buildings. The four-story court-house with its high dome is merely a pile of broken masonry. Nothing is left. Identification is impossible. What was not destroyed by the earthquake has been swept by fire.

Oscar Lucas arrived last night from Santa Rosa. He left there at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon. He said:

"There is not a brick or a stone building left standing in Santa Rosa, and the entire devastated territory has been burned over.

"Dead bodies were being taken from the debris of wrecked houses on all sides. It is estimated that the death toll will foot up to 300."

Word comes from San Jose that the business section of the city is wrecked. The death list has reached fifty. Fifteen persons were killed in the collapse of the Vendome Hotel. The Doherty Block is now in flames. Mr. and Mrs. Degrow are among the dead.

INSANE ASYLUM COLLAPSED.

At Agnew's Station, a few miles out from San Jose, the State Insane Asylum, a three-story stone structure, collapsed on its seven hundred inmates. One hundred and fifty dead bodies have been taken out of the ruins and as many more are still entombed.

Hardly had the building fallen before there issued forth a wild-eyed and dishevelled army of maniacs, the survivors of the calamity. They screamed and laughed and went as they scattered over the country in all directions.

To them the earthquake rumbling under their feet meant nothing, and the fall of the building a mere triviality. With the superintendent of the asylum and his wife both killed, and many of the keepers injured, the horde of insane persons followed their own inclinations.

Many of them were rounded up and taken care of by the citizens, but scores are still wandering around the countryside, to the great terror of the inhabitants.

Many Killed in Bed.

At Santa Cruz many persons were killed in bed in the collapse of their homes. Loma Prieta Mountain, outside the town, slid from its base and engulfed a mill, killing ten persons.

Salinas, 118 miles south of Frisco, suffered great damage by earthquake and fire. Two deaths are reported. The property damage is \$2,500,000.

Speckles' sugar factory, three miles from town, was destroyed, causing damage of \$1,500,000.

At Watsonville the Moreland Academy was destroyed by fire and several buildings collapsed. At Monterey and Pacific Grove there was a slight shock that caused little damage. At the Belmont Hotel three persons fell through the roof, killing a bride and a hotel servant and injuring several other persons.

At Hollister Granger's Union Warehouse was destroyed. Mrs. Griffith was killed and her husband was crazed by the shock.

In Oakland great property damage was wrought and five fatalities are reported. Many chimneys in private houses, mercantile establishments and manufacturing plants were knocked down. In some cases holes were torn in the walls of business places, but no structures were entirely demolished. Water for a time was cut off from consumers, and telegraph and telephone communication was interrupted. The loss will aggregate several hundred thousand dollars.

Alameda Badly Shaken.

The earthquake caused a loss of \$100,000 in Alameda. No lives were lost, but a few persons were injured. William Cunningham's skull was fractured by falling bricks. Fred Boehmer, wife and child were hemmed in by brick and timbers adjoining the damaged Tudor block. They were rescued by Fire Chief Krauth.

The Methodist block lost a section of



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